

**To:** Hagler, Tom[Hagler.Tom@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ryerson.Teddy  
**Sent:** Sat 2/1/2014 12:48:35 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Drought Announcements today - Quick Summary Per Your Request

Thank you!

**From:** Hagler, Tom  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 4:24 PM  
**To:** Ryerson.Teddy; Diamond, Jane; Keener, Bill; Woo, Nancy  
**Subject:** Drought Announcements today - Quick Summary Per Your Request

There were two critical developments in the Drought Response today.

(1) DWR announced that the water allocation to all 29 of its State Water Project water contractors would be zero (-0-). This is unprecedented. The only exception would be for deliveries to a few “settlement” contractors (who have what amounts to a “superpriority”), and some wildlife refuges. Even these last contractors may be cut 50% soon if conditions do not improve. The State Water Project contractors include the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Kern County Water Agency. Federal CVP contractors (such as Westlands and Sacramento River contractors) may face a similar situation, but the first official CVP allocation will not occur, per contract, until mid-February.

(2) DWR and USBR petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for a Temporary Urgency Change Petition temporarily revising their water right permits (diversion permits). The Petition is not generally available yet, but my understanding is that the request is to relax the Delta outflow standard (the X2 standard) and to keep the Delta Cross Channel open. The existing outflow standard calls for, in a critically dry year, roughly 7100 cfs of outflow at the compliance point (Collinsville) from February through June. The petition asks to relax that to 1500 cfs for February, with a proposed process for deciding again what to do in March, depending on hydrological conditions. Meeting the 7100 cfs standard would in effect drain the already depleted reservoirs, and would eliminate any cold water storage for salmon migration standards later in the year. The purpose of the Delta Cross Channel action is to freshen water in the interior Delta, which would otherwise become stagnant and saline in these low water conditions.

The SWRCB will act on this petition on an expedited basis, pursuant to the Governor's drought proclamation. EPA does not have a role in these water rights permit temporary urgency change petitions. More information on both of these actions is available at:

[http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2014/013114prerss\\_conference.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2014/013114prerss_conference.pdf)

This packet also has some very useful graphs and charts that explain the drought conditions. It is truly unprecedented.

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